

# Merrimack School District

Supporting the Health and Safety  
Task Force Proposal for Reopening  
Schools

## Task Force Recommendation/Observation

Mask wearing will be optional for staff and students.

With a full return to In-Person Learning neither 3' n 6' of distancing will be possible.

School facilities will be open for programs before, during, and after school and for community use on weekends.

School Nurses will continue to provide guidance to families and staff if there is exposure or confirmed illness.

School District will adhere to all NH DHHS quarantine and contact tracing guidelines.

Traditional lunch and recess schedules will resume.

Cleaning and Disinfecting procedures will continue.

---

## CDC's Key Prevention Strategies ( A Community Partnership)

Promote Vaccination

Face Mask Use

Physical Distancing

Screening Testing

Increasing Ventilation

Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

Staying home when sick

Contact Tracing and Isolating, Quarantine

Cleaning and Disinfecting

# Mandatory or Optimal Masking?

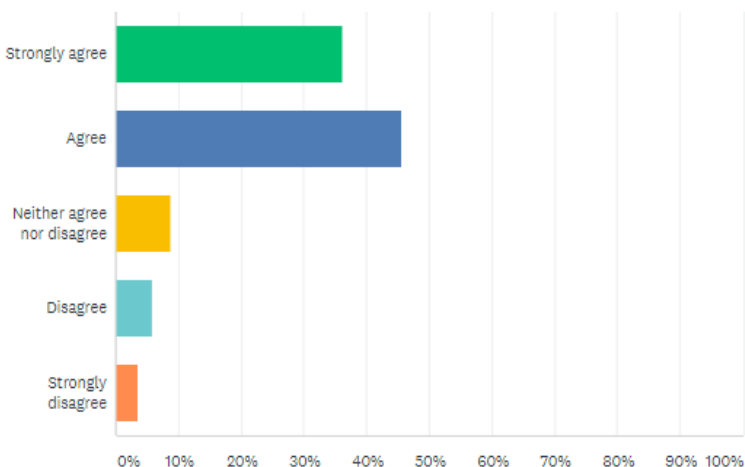
---

- ▶ The American Academy of Pediatrics has recommended universal face masks for everybody 2 years of age and older at school.
- ▶ New Hampshire Department of Public Health Services recommend face mask use based on a local assessment of risk for Covid-19 in the community. (This is consistent with CDC's general guidance on implementing prevention strategies.) "This guidance remains the current NH DPHS guidance given continued low levels of Covid-19 statewide".
- ▶ NH DPHS has tried to take a balanced approach to implementing mitigation measures so that after community transmission and risks are low, people can pull back on some mitigation measures.
- ▶ With low levels of community transmission schools and childcare agencies can safely choose to remove face mask requirements indoors (permissive recommendation), based on your local assessment the local situation and risk/benefits of continued mask use.
- ▶ Individuals who are concerned for their health, or people who are immunocompromised, can still choose to wear face masks for individual protection.
- ▶ Face mask use will continue to be a contentious issue and should be implemented based on local decision making and local factors.
- ▶ Regardless of mask policy at school, passengers and drivers must wear a mask on school buses.

## Staff Response to Health and Safety Task Force Recommendations (including masking, physical distancing, and staff screening/attestation forms)

What is your overall reaction to the Health and Safety Task Force proposal?

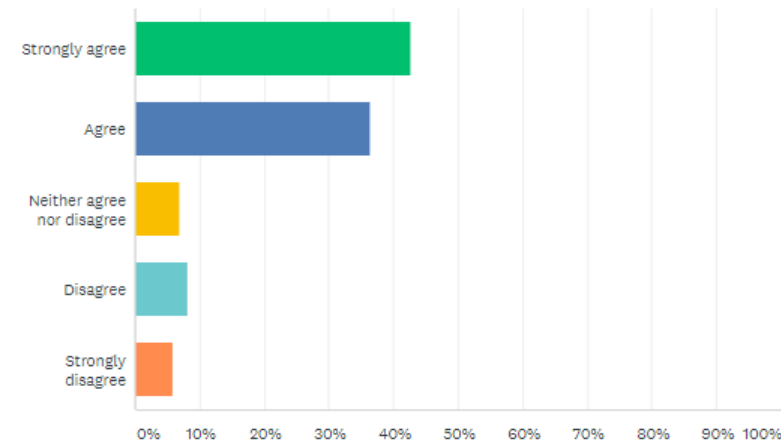
Answered: 171 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	36.26%	62
Agree	45.61%	78
Neither agree nor disagree	8.77%	15
Disagree	5.85%	10
Strongly disagree	3.51%	6
TOTAL		171

In the presentation, the task force recommends optional masks for staff and students, do you agree or disagree with this statement?

Answered: 173 Skipped: 0

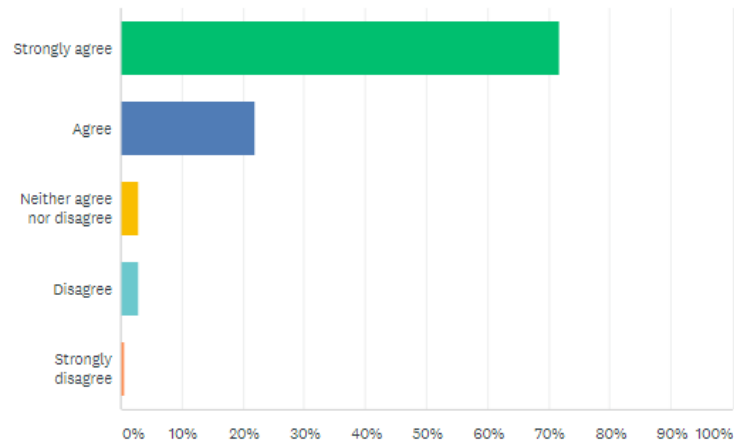


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	42.77%	74
Agree	36.42%	63
Neither agree nor disagree	6.94%	12
Disagree	8.09%	14
Strongly disagree	5.78%	10
TOTAL		173

## Staff Response to Health and Safety Task Force Recommendations (including masking, physical distancing, and staff screening/attestation forms)

In the presentation, the task force recommends staff no longer need to complete attestation forms, do you agree or disagree with this statement?

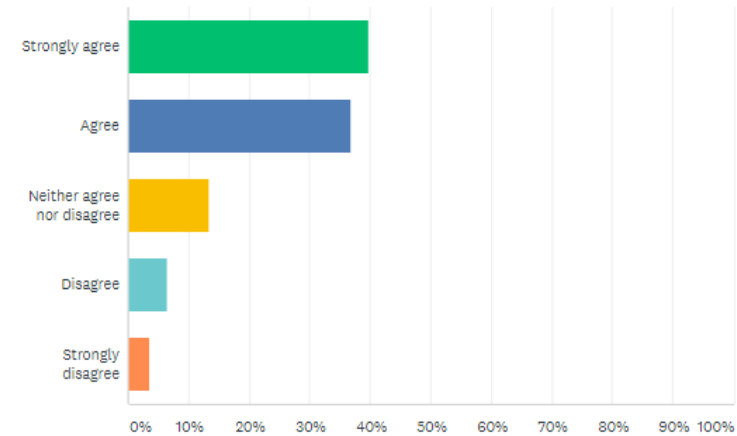
Answered: 173 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	71.68%	124
Agree	21.97%	38
Neither agree nor disagree	2.89%	5
Disagree	2.89%	5
Strongly disagree	0.58%	1
TOTAL		173

In the presentation, the task force states physical distancing will not be possible, how do you feel about this statement?

Answered: 171 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	39.77%	68
Agree	36.84%	63
Neither agree nor disagree	13.45%	23
Disagree	6.43%	11
Strongly disagree	3.51%	6
TOTAL		171

# Overview of Comments

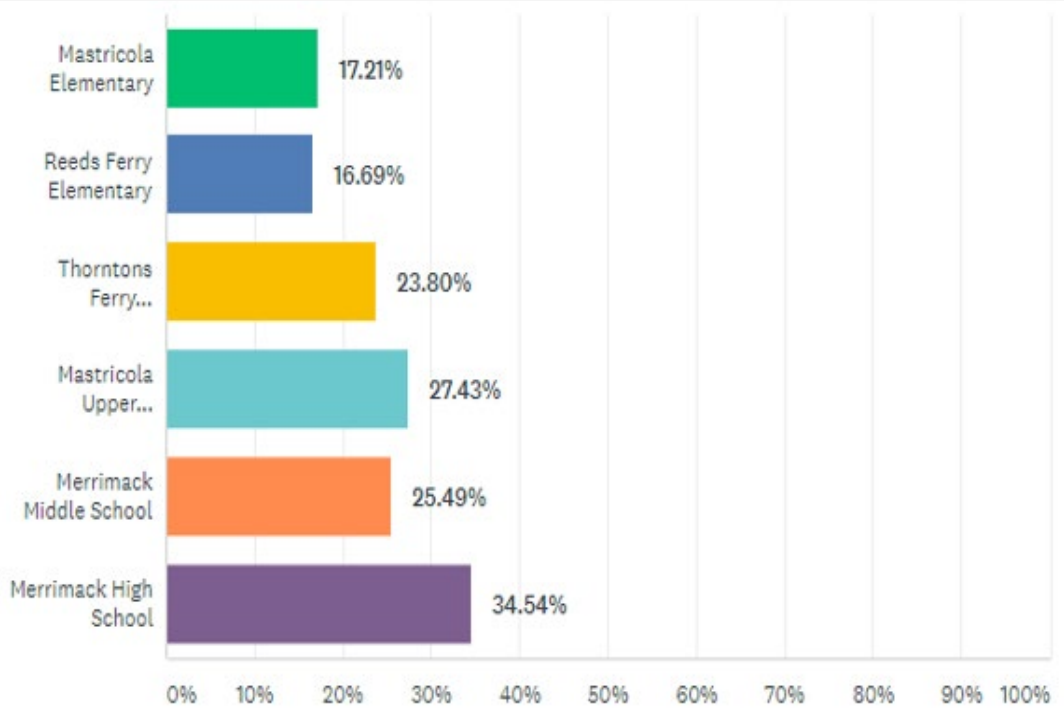
---

Overview of Comments from Staff	Totals
In Agreement/Thank You Comments	24
Masking/Vaccination Comments (ranging from should be required for those that are unvaccinated, to make vaccine mandatory for all staff/students who are old enough)	25
Concern about physical distancing	8
Other Comments (Lunch, lockers, assembly's, screenings, COVID testing)	14
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>71</b>

# Parent Response to Health and Safety Task Force Recommendations

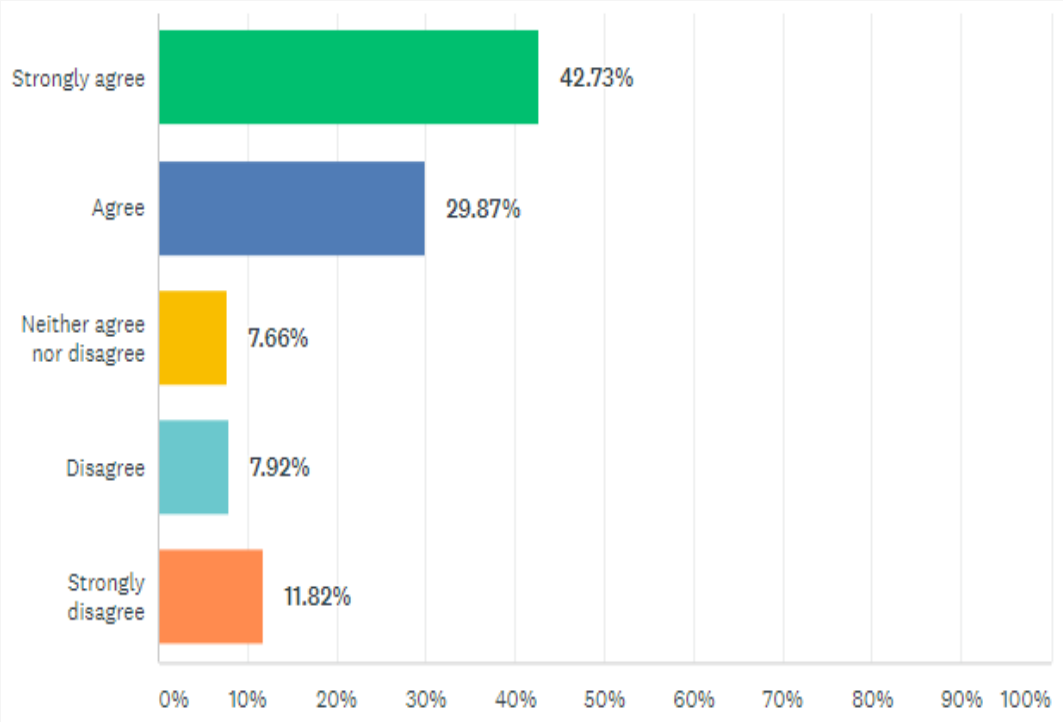
What school or schools do you children attend?

Answered:773 Skipped:2



What is your overall reaction to the Health and Safety Task Force proposal?

Answered:770 Skipped: 5



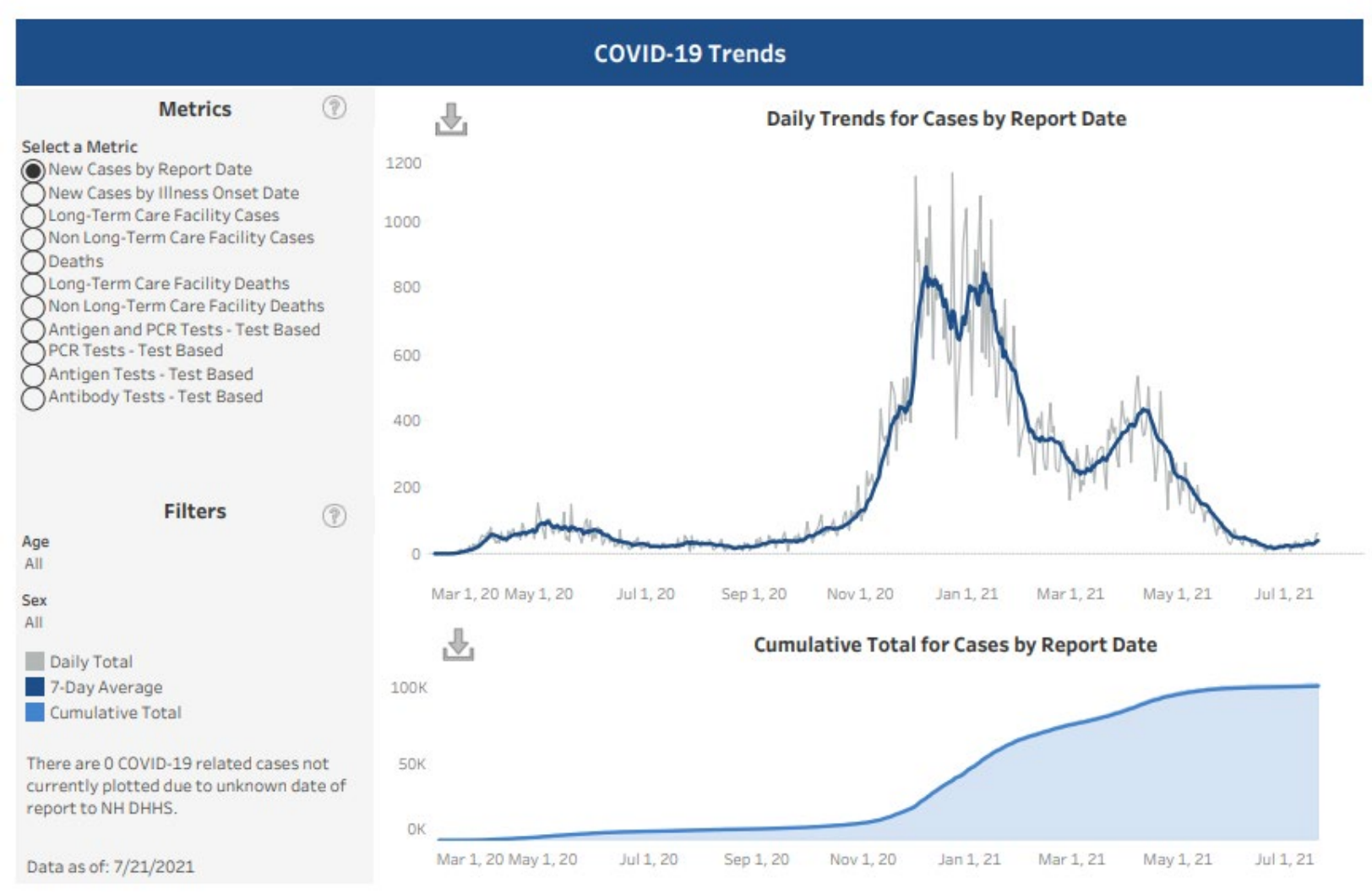


# Overview of Comments

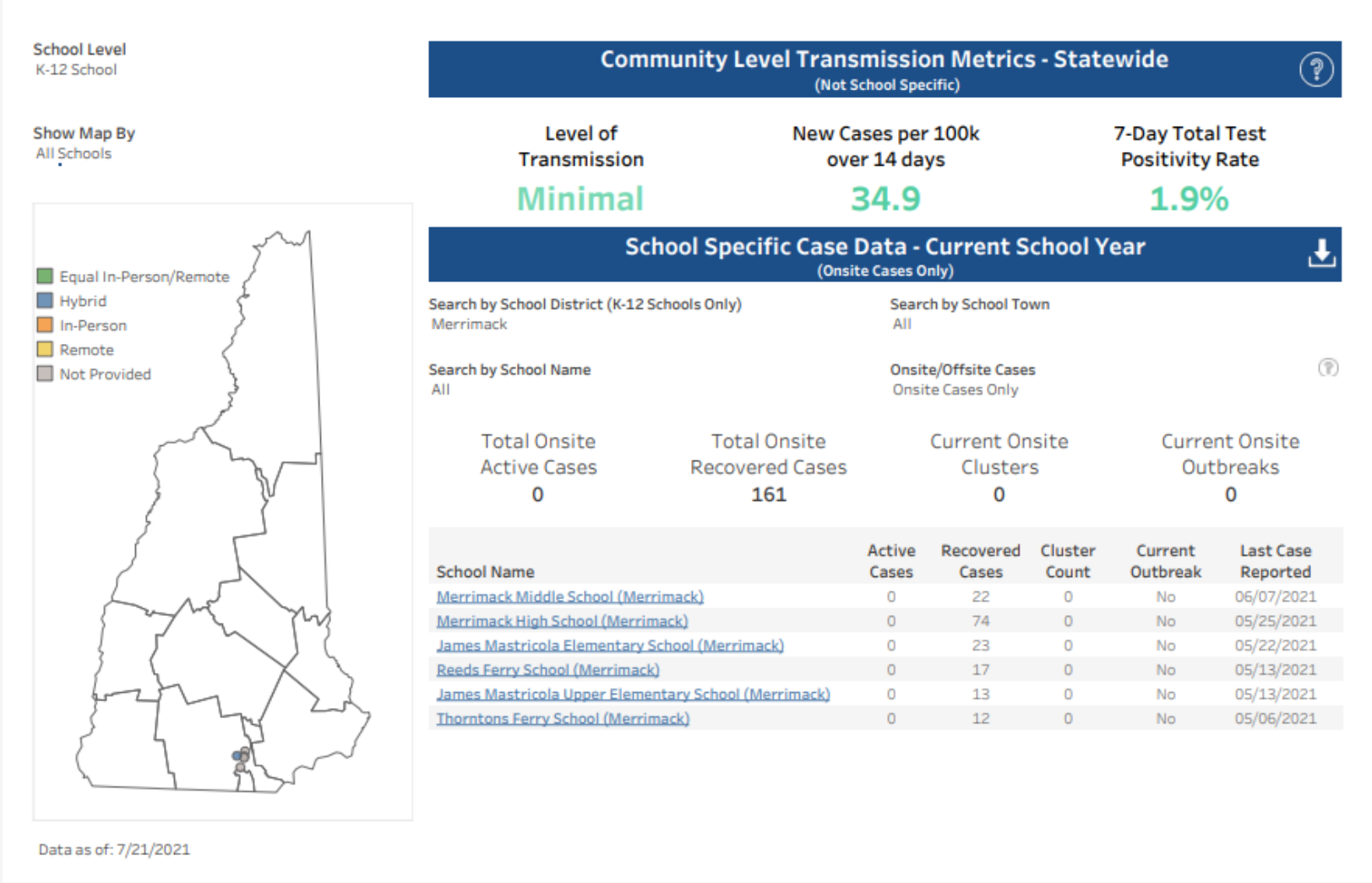
---

Overview of Comments from Parents	Totals
Favoring masks Comments	156
Supported Optional Mask Recommendation Comments	198
General Comments	31
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>385</b>

# Trends Dashboard



# School Reopening Dashboard



---

## Conclusion

- ▶ Chief Educational Officer supports and recommends seeking School Board approval for the Merrimack School District Health and Safety Task Force.